Introduction of MICR technology for cheques in Banks

2889. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made so far in the introduction of Magnetic Ink Characters Recognition (MICR) cheques and the follow-up "action to introduce the MICR technology for clearing of cheques", particularly the installation of readers, and encoders at branch level and linking of sorters in the Reserve Bank of India to these branches; and

(b) what steps are being taken to educate the bank customers in handling the MICR technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that most of the banks have started issuing Magnetic Ink Characters Recognition (MICR) Cheques in the metropolitan cities of Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Calcutta. Reserve Bank of India has also initiated steps for installation of encoding and sorting machines to make computers cheque processing system complete.

(b) (1) Do's and Dont's in regard to handling of MICR cheques are printed on the covers of the MICR cheque books for the guidance of customers.

(2) Banks have started distributing pamphlets/hand-outs on MICR technology.

(3) Indian Bank's Association is taking up publicity on behalf of member banks towards customer education.

(4) Other measures such as advertisement in newspapers, Television, Radio are being contemplated.

Forgery relating to dividend warrants detected in various Banks

2890. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a criminal case of forgery and misappropriation of negotiable instruments, viz., dividend warrants drawn on various banks supported by photo copies of the forged instruments was registered at Dibrugarh P.S. (Assam) on 30th June, 1984 as directed by the Additional S. P. Dibrugarh District;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on the 11th February, 1985 the Director General of Police, Assam was personally informed in writing of the details of the said case and complete inaction on the part of Dibrugarh Police in this regard;

(c) if so, what is the follow-up action taken so far in the matter; and

(d) if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Assam has intimated that a criminal case No. 298/84 under Section 419|420|408 IPC has been registered at Dibrugarh P.S. on 30-6-84.

(c) and (d) The State Government has further reported that investigation in this case has not yet concluded.

Import of coins

2891. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number with denomination and value of different coins which have been manufactured in foreign countries and imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what is the number with denomination of blank coins imported during the above period; and

(c) what are the names of the countries from which the coins were imported and the value of coins received from them so far and also the amount paid for the same?